

01152023 I want to continue to talk about talked about our intermediate home Heaven ...where we go after we leave this place

Why is this important? the more we know about final destination is to put our present journey toward there in perspective and the troubles we face become bearable.

...the more we long for it ... the more we long for it the more we keep trucking toward it... to understand our final destination is to put our present journey toward there in perspective on the hassles, trials and troubles along the journey to home.... They become much more bearable.

COL 3:1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.NLT

What are the things Paul says to set our minds on?? The realities of Heaven and the abode of God and the throne of the Father and Jesus... do you know over 17 times Throne of God mentioned in the New Testament...it is the seat of all power, judgment, grace, rewards...absolute control...

- **We are to think on such realities ...You know what a definition of a mentally healthy person is? One who is in touch with reality and Paul tells us to focus ...set our sight on the reality of Heaven...**

So today lets examine some of those realities...to keep our minds on...

- **First of all know this those in Heaven seems seem to have their minds set on us!**

NLT HEB 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

- **The witnesses surrounding us... Their rooting for us is not based on ignorance but perspective.**
- **They have run the same race themselves...and know the result of finishing...for they live in heaven...and experience the presence of Jesus**
- **They understand the supernatural in a way we cannot..**
- **So though they are retired from here, but *they are not* idly watching but intently observing... interacting on our behalf...cheering us on to keep running the race ... And we are to strip off the weights of sin that hinders us...by tripping up our feet...or our walk**

They find great joy witnessing God continuously at work on Earth, in and through the saints witnessing the race he has marked out for us to run...and them knowing he will get us to the finish...

So though they are retired from here, but *they are not* idly watching but intently observing... interacting on our behalf...cheering us on to keep running the race ... And we are to strip off the weights of sin that hinders us...by tripping up our feet...or our walk

- **Jesus used a story on earth to illustrate this truth about heaven's inhabitants watching and cheering**

NLT LK 15: 3 So Jesus told them this story: 4 “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. 6 When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away! . NLT

- **just as information was shared by the shepherd who looked for and found his lost sheep about the recovery of a lost lamb causing much rejoicing among his friends and neighbors.....**
- **they also spread the news...to other neighbors and friends...the witnesses..**
- **it also implies they have joy for the 99...who are have not gotten lost**

******Another scriptural example...**

NLT LK 9: 28 About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray. 29 And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly, two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared and began talking with Jesus. 31 They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem. 32 Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus’ glory and the two men standing with

him. ³³ As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, “Master, it’s wonderful for us to be here! Let’s make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

- **Moses and Elijah...appeared in glorious, physical bodies although Moses died Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind...bodily.....yet they both appeared in physical form... How do we know? Peter wanted to build them a shelter...**
- **they were standing...not floating like a spirit**
- **Moses and Elijah...spoke to Jesus about things...they spoke with knowledge of things taking place and about to take place on the earth...**

******And After Jesus was crucified...some others returned to being participants... before moving to witness..**

NLT MT 27:50 Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, ⁵² and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were **raised from the dead**. ⁵³ They left the cemetery after Jesus’ resurrection, went **into the holy city of Jerusalem**, and **appeared to many people**.

- **These people were aware of the day andand resurrected with some type of heavenly/earthly bodies... as they were able to appear and disappear.**

- **Their memories were intact...as they were familiar with the city and they chose who they would appear too...and afterward apparently went to heaven..**

*****Which moves us to what's going on in Heaven**

Around 94AD John was exiled to the island of Patmos...and on this island he was given a vision of heaven...and things taking place and a particular conversation between the Lord and saints who have died as martyrs...and he records their conversation

NLT Rev 6:9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under **the altar** the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony. ¹⁰ **They shouted** to the Lord and said, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, **how long before you judge** the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us?”

There are a number of things we see here...

- 1. Those who died were relocated to the abode of God and were in the Temple with God...**
- 2. Those were the same ones who died for him on earth...are now living with Him in Heaven**
- 3. They are the same individuals who lived on earth...they have not changed into someone different...**
- 4. They are fully cognizant of their life on earth and in particular the cause of their deaths ...their memory and history on earth was not erased.... and fully aware of what is going on in the earthly realm**

1. So Your memory is not erased in Heaven...in fact it will be crystal clear...
 2. They remembered they were martyred for Jesus...and who did it.
 3. they communicated this to God in shouting....so their emotions were fully intactthey spoke audibly...they could adjust their volume
- They spoke as one ... communication between them was normal.. and there was unity and harmony...
 - **though they cried out as one...each is aware of their own individual history...**
 - These people did not know everything....as they were still asking questions to the Lord...they were still in the process of learning...
 - As “**How Long**” was their call...the current Heaven bound people are all aware of “time”...and the present Heaven has a time element.....
 - **How long till you judge? Oh Sovereign Lord...the one who is in charge and the one who is holy and true... THE PERFECT JUDGE... Justice is always the cry of God’s people**

what happened next....

NLT Rev. 6: 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters^[f]—their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred—had joined them.

- **they were given a robe...they have a body a physical form of a different type...but yet they are clothed...**
- **they must wait longer for Justice...as there are more coming...who will need justice also.**

*****But there are other inhabitants in heaven along with the humans.. ...ANGELS**

Heb 1:14 Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation

- **The patriarch Jacob, in a dream, saw how this takes heavenly earthly interaction takes place...**
- **He saw angels traveling back and forth from the earth to God's presence in heaven**

NLT Gen 28:11 At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep. ¹² As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway. ¹³ At the top of the stairway stood the LORD,

- **Jesus tells this story about angels...who also have emotions**
- **When one of God's kids get entangles in sin and loses focus.... who has left the boundaries and strayed...**
- **Jesus goes and finds them...**

NLT Luke 15:8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.”

- Friends and neighbors (people) know the angels
- Angels are more actively involved in the lives of the living...as they travel back and forth to minister to us...

These Angels are still active today

HEB 13:1 13 Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. 2 Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!

So what are we to do? Verse 2 tells us in Heb 12

Heb 12:2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

so we are to focus on Jesus, others have traveled this path to home and so can we....And these witnesses are helping and cheering us on... we have angels who are helping us...the Holy Spirit who is living in us...His word guiding us

So our job set boundaries in our lives that align with the will of God.....because we win!! Know this Justice may tarry but it will come

- All this so we don't get discouraged by men and opposition... and our sin that so easily entangles... and lose heart about what it is all about....Remember our destination

- **This creates predictability, stability, expectations, direction healthy boundaries which bring us comfort, hope, increases faith and a reason to stay on track for we have a goal and destination... for we belong to the family of God and a place to call home! end**

end

End

- **And realize the boundaries God sets for us are because we are his children...and he absolutely wants the best for us. And when he disciplines or punishes us...it is always done from the place of training us.. reestablishing healthy boundaries**
- **We have the Bible saints ...whose stories we can read about and the lessons is they made great mistakes yet hung in there and so can we...they are inspirations to us...we need inspiration...**
- **This also includes the people the children of God who have left before us in our generation...**

So though they are retired from here, but *they are not* idly watching but intently observing... interacting on our behalf...cheering us on to keep running the race ... And we are to strip off the weights of sin that hinders us...by tripping up our feet...or our walk

⁴ After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. ⁵ And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child,^[e] don’t make light of the LORD’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. ⁶ For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.” ⁷ As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children.



- **How do you do this? keep your eyes on Jesus....**

² *We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.^[a] Because of the joy^[b] awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. ³ Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people;^[c] then you won’t become weary and give up.*

- **How do you do this? keep your eyes on Jesus....**

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One the witnesses surrounding us...witness means someone who is spectating... they are involved though not in the game... observing...watching...but not idly but intently...

- **We have the old testament saints ...whose stories we can read about and the lessons is they hung in there and so can we.....they are inspirations to us...we need inspiration...but this also includes the people the children of God who have left before us in our generation**

1Cor 15:40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

- **and told to wait longer... and they have a family connection....until all the rest of the servants and brothers are brought in.... then he will judge...**
- **Now these many people are talking to Jesus or what we call prayer...and they are aware of what is going on the earth and they are concerned...or what we would call interceding**
- **And Jesus know the exact number and the details of every one of them.....**
- **How long until you make it stop....is their cry...**

Voice of the Martyrs estimates there are 150,000 people a year who lose their lives because of their testimony for Jesus . that is more than 400 a day... there are a lot of voices crying out....

- **that is one glimpse of what is happening in heaven....and Scripture indicates there is much more going on in heaven besides this glimpse...**
- **scripture speaks of music, and singing, and worship and books and food...and as we read earlier it is a city....that is still undergoing construction...**

when Jesus was ready to relocate back to where he came from...he told his disciples this...

JN 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a

place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

- **Jesus' Father has a house for his children...in a particular location...**
- **and Jesus is going there to add on to it...this has to be physical in some way....**
- **He will come back to take them there...to be with Him**

SO...

- **Jesus who has a Physical body after he rises from the dead...**
- **is going to a place that can only be described as Physical...Location where his Father has a house... There will be spectacular places for each of us**
- **and in that house he is preparing each of them a place to live...**
- **He will come back to get them so they may be where he is and the others are...**

and we will live eternally with God and those who know Him ... This place is our intermediate home....with God ...**The Bible tells us that Heaven is a beautiful place....that Jesus is continually adding to and making even better.**

- **Thomas like many of us do not understand what place Jesus is speaking about... ask How do we get there from here??? Great question...**

JN 14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus Answered... *JN 14:6* I answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- **you can only get to my Father's house through me...**
- **you see heaven is not our default destination...we don't automatically get there...**
- **our default destination is separation from God....this is our problem...our solution come to Jesus...**
- **the solutions is a person...the destination is a place...**
- **Jesus said this to the thief on the cross...who turned to him and asked him to take him to his kingdom...**

LK 23:40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." *LK 23:42* Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." *LK 23:43* Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." **PARADISE...an enclosed garden...walled park.. and Paul visited this same place,...**

2CO 12: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. ³ And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- ⁴ **was**

caught up to **paradise**. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

- interesting that he could not tell if he was in a physical state or not...but knew it was different ...but not that different..

What I know about Gabe in heaven so far....

- Heaven is physical in some way ... it is beautiful a paradise with on going construction
- He has a room or place of his own in our father's house...
- He is with Jesus...and countless others in a city that God created...
- He continues to grow and learn... he is aware to some degree of conditions and people on earth...he can intercede at some level at least prayer...
- He is in a domain that is time oriented...this heaven will end...Rev 21
- He has memory of his own history on earth, who he is and he knows who we are... and he has a body with at least some physical attributes...

And this current heaven will also be recreated...

REV 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea....**which we will talk about next week**

end

- When the one who has left the boundaries and strayed...Jesus goes and finds them...and His fiends and neighbors in heaven...the people rejoice...not only them the Angels are our fans and helpers
- ⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.”
- Heaven is also the place where angels interact with God and receive instructions from him. The patriarch Jacob, in a dream, saw angels

traveling back and forth from the earth to God's presence (Genesis 28:12 - 17).

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- ^{HEB 13:1} Keep on loving each other as brothers. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have **entertained** angels without knowing it.
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- Matthew 18:10
 - **The Parable of the Wandering Sheep**
 - “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their **angels** in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.
-
- Matthew 24:31
 - And he will send his **angels** with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.
- Matthew 26:53
 - Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of **angels**?
-
- *Psalm 89:6 For who in all of heaven (*the unseen*) can compare with the LORD? What mightiest angel (*creature of the unseen*) is anything like the LORD?...(*he is not like them*) ⁷ The highest angelic powers stand in awe of God.(*he is infinitely different than them*) He is far*

more awesome than all who surround his throne. NLT (He is alone in this awesomeness)

- **He is so far beyond all that is in the heavenlies...ie all known dimensions... the mightiest creations and their power ...stand in awe of him...and bow at his throne**
- **the realm of God... The Great I am...self existent one..he exists alone where he exists...**
- **Some people are great examples of what to do...while others are great examples of what not to do...each helping us to stay in the race we have been entered into by God**
- **So what are we to do? Verse 2 tells us in Heb 12**

Heb 12:2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. ³ Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. ⁴ After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. ⁵ And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child,^[e] don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. ⁶ For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." ⁷ As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children.

- so we are to focus on Jesus, and the examples of those who have gone before,... our witnesses, and set boundaries in our lives that align with that...
- **And why must we do that? so we don't get discouraged by men and opposition... and our sin that so easily entangles... and lose heart about what it is all about....**
- **And realize the boundaries God sets for us are because we are his children...and he absolutely wants the best for us. And when he disciplines or punishes us...it is always done from the place of training us.. reestablishing healthy boundaries**
- **This creates predictability, stability, expectations, direction healthy boundaries which bring us comfort, hope, increases faith and a reason to stay on track for we have a goal and destination... for we belong to the family of God and a place to call home!**

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- **Our Future consists of living in eternity also**

- **Our Future consists of a new body**

[2 Corinthians 5:1](#) *For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a*

house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. ² We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. ³ For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. ⁴ While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. ⁵ God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit. NLT

- **an eternity awaits us spiritually and bodily**

*****In the ninth dimension, we can compare all the possible universe histories, starting with all the different possible laws of physics and initial conditions. the ninth dimension takes us back to the visible and invisible natural existence we are a part of... .. the ability to know all that is knowable about the natural realm is known.. That again is a God quality**

this is what God says about this creation

ISA 40:12 Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? ¹³ Who is able to advise the Spirit of the LORD? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him? ¹⁴ Has the LORD ever needed anyone's advice? Does he need instruction about what is good? Did someone teach him what is right or show him the path of justice? ¹⁵ No, for all the nations of the world are but a drop in the bucket. They are nothing more than dust on the scales. He picks up the whole earth as though it were a grain of sand. NLT

and o top of this God has power over death...

Psalm 102:18 Let this be recorded for future generations, so that a people not yet born will praise the LORD. ¹⁹ Tell them the LORD looked down from his heavenly sanctuary. He looked down to earth from heaven ²⁰ to hear the groans of the prisoners, to release those condemned to die.

- **His power sees through and wisdom understands all dimensions past and future and their limitations they can't overcome death..He has!**

*****In the tenth and final dimension, we arrive at the point in which everything possible and imaginable is covered. All is known..that can be known.. which makes it our natural limitation of what we can conceive in terms of dimensions.**

Isaiah 45:18 For the LORD is **God**, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. “**I am the LORD,**” he says, “and there is no other.

- **And God knows way more than has been revealed..**

Deut 29:29 “The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions. NLT

- **Yet he has given his will regarding Jesus...and also the big picture... of the completion of his plan in Scripture minus the exact timing of it finale!**

Eph 1: 9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ,

we have received an inheritance from God,^[c] for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. NLT

And. This is what it will look like...and be like

*ESV Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, **“Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”** ⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment*

- So what are we to do in the mean time?**1) write these words down and put them to memory! it is going to happen...these words are trustworthy and true**

Rev 22: ¹⁰ And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

3. keep doing what you are supposed too...

Rev 22: ¹¹ Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.” ¹² “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

4) now is there anyone struggling on the journey that would like prayer to stay on track?

HEB 4:14 ¹⁴ So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the **throne of our gracious God**. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. lets pray...after glow

lets pray

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- Why did they stay the course...remain stable in their walks?
Their longing their motivation was different

- **The result....this longing sets your boundaries**

¹⁶ But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

- **And this new home will be familiar to us...yet different..and absolutely amazing.... it is of a physical nature... it is a country with a city...a location...a place...Apparently a PHYSICAL PLACE...similar to ours...so it is really a home!**
- **And Until all God's people are safely home, God's complete purposes** will not be fulfilled...

NLT HEB 11: ³⁹ All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. ⁴⁰ For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

- **They were commended for their faith...but life on earth lacked fulfillment for them..it will for us too...**
- **For us to finish the Race well on this earth a some boundaries are needed...**

HEB 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us

end

"If you live for the next world, you get this one in the deal; but if you live only for this world, you lose them both."

A little more about our fan club...the witnesses in heaven...Jesus even gives two examples of the attitude of those in heaven toward us...

NLT Luke 15: 4 "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶ When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost

sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

- **When the one who has left the boundaries and strayed...Jesus goes and finds them...and His fiends and neighbors in heaven...the people rejoice**
- **But not only them ...the angels too..**

⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ **In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.**”

Heaven is also the place where angels interact with God and receive instructions from him. The patriarch Jacob, in a dream, saw angels traveling back and forth from the earth to God's presence (Genesis 28:12 - 17).

HEB 13:1 Keep on loving each other as brothers. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Matthew 18:10

The Parable of the Wandering Sheep

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their **angels** in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

Matthew 24:31

And he will send his **angels** with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Matthew 26:53

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of **angels**?

The New Jerusalem

The last two chapters of the Bible describe a glorious New Jerusalem that will descend on the planet from God's throne in heaven (Revelation 21:10). It will be a magnificently beautiful city built from pure gold that is clear like glass. Its walls will look like jasper and contain twelve foundation stones, composed of various gems, that have the names of the original twelve apostles inscribed on them (Revelation 21:18 - 21).

God the Father, after the city is taken from heaven and placed on the earth, will then do something he has never done before! He will personally place his and Jesus' throne within the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:22 - 22:3)! He will make the city the new center and capital of the entire universe.

God's awesome plan to create beings like himself, which started in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1:26 - 27), will finally be complete. He can now share eternity with his children and interact face-to-face with all those who were saved (Revelation 21:24, 26, 22:4) and forever enjoy their company. The placement of their thrones within a New Jerusalem will constitute heaven on earth!

@@@@

three scriptural examples...there are more...

*LK 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, **Moses** and **Elijah**, ³¹ appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory **and the two men standing with him**. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for **Moses** and one for **Elijah**." (He did not know what he was saying.)*

- **Moses and Elijah...appeared in glorious, physical bodies although Moses died Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind...bodily.....yet they both appeared in physical form... How do we know? Peter wanted to build them a house...**

- **they were standing...not floating like a spirit**

- **Moses and Elijah...spoke to Jesus about things..they spoke with knowledge of things taking place and about to take place on the earth...**

and when Jesus was crucified...

MT 27:50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. *MT 27:51* At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ⁵² The tombs broke open and the **bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.** ⁵³ *They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and **appeared to many people.***

- these people were aware of the day....and resurrected with bodies...
- interacted with people on the earth....then apparently went to heaven..

Around 94AD John was exiled to the island of Patmos...and on this island he was given a vision of heaven...and things taking place and things that were going to take place on the earth...

and he speaks of the saints who have died as martyrs...and he records their conversation with God....

REV 6:9 When he (Jesus) opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. ¹⁰ They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" ¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

There are a number of things we see here...

5. **Those who died were relocated to the abode of God and were in the Temple with God...**
6. those were the same ones who died for him on earth...now live with Him in Heaven
7. they are the same they have not changed...
8. they are distinct individuals...
9. **They are fully cognizant of what happened to them...their memory and history on earth was not erased.... and fully aware it is still going on....**
10. which means they remembered their life on earth...

Stephen the first recorded martyr in Acts...looked up into Heaven...

AC 7:54 When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus

standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man **standing** at the right hand of God."

- **Those present in the Temple undoubtedly watching also...**

which makes sense..because at the final judgment...not the salvation judgment...we will all give an account of our lives...

*RO 14:9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For **we will all stand before God's judgment seat.** ¹¹ It is written:*

" `As surely as I live,' says the Lord, `every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.' "

*RO 14:12 **So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.** ^{RO 14:13} Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.*

4. Your memory is not erased in Heaven...in fact it will be crystal clear...

5. those in chapter 6...remembered they were martyred for Jesus...

11. and they communicated this....

¹⁰ *They called **out in a loud voice**, "How long, **Sovereign Lord**, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"*

- **communicated this in a loud voice....they had emotions....they spoke audibly...they could adjust their volume**
- **they spoke as one ...there was unity and harmony...**
- **though they cried out as one...each is aware of their own individual history...**
- **"How Long" was their call...the current Heaven bound people are all aware of "time"...the present Heaven has a time element.....**
- **How long what...until he judges those who do wrong....Justice is always the cry of God's people**
- **How long till you judge? Oh Sovereign Lord...the one who is in charge and the one who is holy and true... THE PERFECT JUDGE**

what happened next....

Rev. 6:11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed

- **these people did not know everything....they were still asking questions and learning from God...they were discovering and continuing to grow...**
- **they were given a robe...they have a body a physical form of a different type...**

1Cor 15:40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

- and told to wait longer... and they have a family connection....until all the rest of the servants and brothers are brought in.... then he will judge...
- Now these many people are talking to Jesus or what we call prayer...and they are aware of what is going on the earth and they are concerned...or what we would call interceding
- And Jesus know the exact number and the details of every one of them.....
- How long until you make it stop....is their cry...

Voice of the Martyrs estimates there are 150,000 people a year who lose their lives because of their testimony for Jesus . that is more than 400 a day... there are a lot of voices crying out....

- that is one glimpse of what is happening in heaven....and Scripture indicates there is much more going on in heaven besides this glimpse...
- scripture speaks of music, and singing, and worship and books and food...and as we read earlier it is a city....that is still undergoing construction...

when Jesus was ready to relocate back to where he came from...he told his disciples this...

JN 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

- Jesus' Father has a house for his children...in a particular location...
- and Jesus is going there to add on to it...this has to be physical in some way....
- He will come back to take them there...to be with Him

SO...

- Jesus who has a Physical body after he rises from the dead...
- is going to a place that can only be described as Physical...Location where his Father has a house... There will be spectacular places for each of us
- and in that house he is preparing each of them a place to live...
- He will come back to get them so they may be where he is and the others are...

and we will live eternally with God and those who know Him ... This place is our intermediate home....with God ...**The Bible tells us that Heaven is a beautiful place.....that Jesus is continually adding to and making even better.**

- **Thomas like many of us do not understand what place Jesus is speaking about... ask How do we get there from here???** Great question...

JN 14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus Answered... *JN 14:6* I answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- you can only get to my Father's house through me...
- you see heaven is not our default destination...we don't automatically get there...
- our default destination is separation from God....this is our problem...our solution come to Jesus...
- **the solutions is a person...the destination is a place...**
- Jesus said this to the thief on the cross...who turned to him and asked him to take him to his kingdom...

LK 23:40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." *LK 23:42* Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." *LK 23:43* Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in **paradise.**" **PARADISE...an enclosed garden...walled park.. and Paul visited this same place,...**

2CO 12: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. ³ And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- ⁴ was caught up to **paradise**. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

- interesting that he could not tell if he was in a physical state or not...but knew it was different ...but not that different..

What I know about Gabe in heaven so far....

- **Heaven is physical in some way ... it is beautiful a paradise with on going construction**
- **He has a room or place of his own in our father's house...**
- **He is with Jesus...and countless others in a city that God created...**
- **He continues to grow and learn... he is aware to some degree of conditions and people on earth...he can intercede at some level at least prayer...**
- **He is in a domain that is time oriented...this heaven will end...Rev 21**

- **He has memory of his own history on earth, who he is and he knows who we are... and he has a body with at least some physical attributes...**

And this current heaven will also be recreated...

REV 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea...**which we will talk about next week**

end

2CO 5:1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

What I know about Gabe in heaven so far....

- **Heaven is physical in some way ... it is beautiful a paradise with on going construction...a paradise like the front yard to our Father's Mansion**
- **He has a room or place of his own in our father's house...**
- **He is with Jesus...and countless others in a city that God created...**
- **He continues to grow and learn... he is aware to some degree of conditions and people on earth...he can intercede at some level at least prayer...**
- **He is in a domain that is time oriented...this heaven will end...Rev 21**
- **He has memory of his own history on earth, who he is and he knows who we are... and he has a body with at least some physical attributes with greater capacity than we have now.....**
- **and this place will be a literal paradise.....an enclosed garden or park...and located in this country will be a city ...and in this city god will have a home...**

and in this home are rooms or places being constructed.... Gabe has gone to God's residence ...but in the new heaven and new earth...God will come to our residence and make his abode with us...

- **when Jesus was ready to relocate back to where he came from...he told his disciples this...**

JN 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a

place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

- **Jesus' Father has a house for his children...in a particular location...**
- **and Jesus is going there to add on to it...this has to be physical in some way....**
- **He will come back to take them there...to be with Him**

SO...the one who is building a home for us in heaven is also the same one who was a carpenter on earth....coincidence I think not....

- **when Jesus took on flesh and came to earth to redeem man he also came to redeem the earth...to remove the curse on the place where we now live...**

*RO 8: 19 The **creation** waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the **creation** was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the **creation** itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.*

- **the freedom of the children of God is eternal life...free of sin and death**
- **the freedom for the creation....freedom from the curse that was placed on it ... it will again produce freely...animals will no longer hurt man or animals and man will no longer harm god's creation...**

*RO 8:22 We know that the whole **creation** has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies.***

*²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, **we wait for it patiently.***

- **Heaven is our waiting place for this all to come to completion...**
- **In the present life men ...are limited...**

****** ... that is why on earth we walk by faith******

*2 CO 5:6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ We **live by faith**, not by sight.*

why? we do not see clearly.....nor understand all that is taking place...

*2 CO 5:12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see **face to face**. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

1CO 13: 12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

2 CO 5:8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

*******why?... because in heaven we will walk by sight...we s will see and understand far more clearly*******

- **One reason...the sons of God will see Christ “as he is” (1 John 3:2).**

1JN 3: 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

- **Just as the angels do now,**

MT 18:10For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

- **And this God is a Father, in whose house (John 14:2) the redeemed will dwell**
- **Though there is much conjecture about what Heaven is like, its central core is that we will be with Jesus Himself.**
- He has entered back into the presence of the Father and has conveyed to us that the redeemed of the Lord will likewise be with Him where He is.

Heaven is the country where the great Mansion of our Father is.

Two... in heaven we are not going to sin... we will not sin because we will not want to.

- We will freely choose never to sin
- **In Heaven we will see the attractiveness of goodness and of God so clearly, and the ugliness and stupidity of sin so clearly, that there will be no possible motive to sin.**
- **but now...we are enslaved by ignorance. Every sin comes from ignorance, for we sin only because we see sin as somehow attractive, which it is not, and goodness as somehow lacking in attraction.**

******Heavenly sight increase our freedom...and what you do by faith in the mean time counts eternally.... Walk in faith until we walk in sight...**

End Col 3:1 ?

COL 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- when Jesus took on flesh and came to earth to redeem man he also came to redeem the earth...to remove the curse on the place where we now live...

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Heavenly sight increase our freedom...and what you do by faith in the mean time counts eternally....

****Treasures and rewards in this kingdom...salvation is free ...rewards are earned...**

EPH 6: 7 *Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will **reward** everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.*

COL 3: 23 *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a **reward**. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

MT 6:19 *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and **rust** destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ **But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where moth and **rust** do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

What do we do to serve God...simply love him and love others...love is demonstrated by service....Jesus served us we serve others....

1JN 4:19 We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, **cannot love God**, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

- a common theme in love is serving...one is it to be done for God...anonymously...
- Two...it is done in everyday life..

LK 6: 35 But **love your enemies**, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your **reward** will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

MT 6:1 "Be careful not to do your **'acts of righteousness'** before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no **reward** from your Father in heaven.

MT 6: 3 But when you **give to the needy**, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will **reward** you.

MT 6: 6 But **when you pray**, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will **reward** you.

MT 5:11 "Blessed are you **when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.** ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your **reward** in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MT 6: 17 But **when you fast**, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will **reward** you.

MT 10:42 And **if anyone gives** even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his **reward.**"

MT 16: 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will **reward** each person according to what he has done.

How will God know? books...

LK 10: 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

MAL 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. **A scroll of remembrance was written** in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. *MAL 3:17* "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.

DA 7:9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat.

His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze

DA 7:10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him, Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the **books** were opened

REV 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, **and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.**

¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- **Who is writing these books? it appears people will also have jobs to perform in the heavens and the new heaven and new earth...not to mention people who are distance by ethnicity and culture...**
- **Those who lead appear to lead.. manage... manage...**

MT 24:45 "Who then is the **faithful** and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷ I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

- **there will be elders...and creatures..angels**

REV 5:6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.

He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ **He came and took the scroll** from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

- **elders, creatures, Jesus the father on a throne...**

⁸ *And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.* ⁹ *And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation*

- **understood redemption in every language from every nation and people group...**
- **elders played music...and carried the prayers of the saints...aware of the prayers...**

REV 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

- **all of them members of the Kingdom**
- **and are priests of God**
- **and the new earth they will reign on...they will have power and position...**

REV 5:11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² *In a loud voice they sang: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*

- **angels encircles the throne in the millions...and sang...**
- **you see our senses will be heightened...**
- **ears able to hear distinctly various sounds and music and differentiate it easily...**

REV 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

REV 5:14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- **all this happened in a physical heaven...so how ought we to live...**

COL 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.* ³ *For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.* ⁴ *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

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@@@@new heaven and new earth here?

let me spend a little more time on this wonderful place

...on earth we walk by faith

^{2 CO 5:6} Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ We live by faith, not by sight.

but in heaven we will walk by sight...

^{2 CO 5:8} We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

why?

^{2 CO 5:12} Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

so how ought we to live in the mean time?

^{2 CO 5:9} So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

This is an ignorance that we are responsible for, but it is ignorance, and without that ignorance we would not sin. In Heaven, in the presence of God, overwhelmed and filled with the total joy of goodness, baptized with goodness as a sunken ship is filled with water, no one could possibly ever want to turn from this perceived glory. Now, "we walk by faith, not by sight"(2 Cor. 5:7).

Heavenly sight increase our freedom. Ask the blind whether sight would remove their freedom.

when we live for heaven ...our lives on earth change....

^{1 CO 15:58} *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

- the reason to stand firm is that all labor done with the consciousness of God will be rewarded...
- **every good acts builds up reward for you in heaven... if we believe that this life is the preparation for eternity, then everything makes an eternal difference.**
- Historically, it is those who have believed most strongly in Heaven who have made the greatest difference to Earth, beginning with Christ himself.

- we will give an account...
- I think eternity will include all time, as we see their whole life pass before them in perfect temporal order, not confusion, yet instantaneously—somewhat as you can do now when you call to mind a story you have read and know well.
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- When you say "David Copperfield," you mean all the Davids, in order, but you see them all at once, from the young David to the old David, because, having finished the story, you are outside it.
- You are "after death" regarding David. One day you will be "after death" regarding yourself. Time now confines us. There is never enough of it. I think heavenly time will be like heavenly space: fully humanized and subject to the soul. Even now there are two kinds of time, as there are two kinds of space (space and place): *chronos*, or chronological time, material time, and *kairos*, or lived time, human time, time for some purpose measured by mind and will. Now, *kairos* is contained and constrained by *chronos*; there is seldom enough time to do justice to anything. In heaven this inside-out situation will be reversed, and chronological time will be contained and mastered by *kairos*, somewhat as even now playwrights and novelists master the time in their stories.
- Our dissatisfaction with time, by the way, is a powerful piece of evidence that we are made for eternity. There is nothing more natural and all-pervasive in this world than time. Not only our bodies but our souls as well are immersed in time. Yet we complain about it. C. S. Lewis asks, "Do fish complain of the sea for being wet? Or if they did, would that fact not strongly suggest that they had not been, or were not destined always to be, aquatic creatures?" We long to step out of the sea of time onto the land of eternity, even though we do not really understand what eternity is!
- Yet in a sense everyone will be both old and young, as a reflection of the God who is the Alpha and Omega, oldest and youngest, "beauty ancient yet ever new."
-
- **treasures and rewards** Social justice. It's a pain in the Christian back side, but it seems to be a thing that Jesus is about.

MT 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- it appears most of our treasure stored up in heaven will be by acts done anonymously where only God sees the motive while others experience the acts of love...

MT 5:11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your **reward** in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MT 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what **reward** will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

MT 6:1 "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no **reward** from your Father in heaven.

MT 6:2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their **reward** in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will **reward** you.

MT 6:5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their **reward** in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will **reward** you.

MT 10:42 "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his **reward**."

MT 16: ²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will **reward** each person according to what he has done.

EPH 6: ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will **reward** everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

COL 3: 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,
 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a **reward**. It is the Lord
 Christ you are serving.

ISA 66:2 Has not my hand made all these things,
 and so they came into being?"
 declares the LORD.

"This is the one I **esteem**:

he who is humble and contrite in spirit,
 and trembles at my word.

MIC 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good.
 And what does the LORD require of you?
 To act justly and to **love mercy**
 and to walk humbly with your God.

MT 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will
 be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put
 the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

MT 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom
 prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me
 something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I
 was in prison and you came to visit me.'

MT 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?
³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to
 visit you?'

MT 25:40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

REV 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I
 stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and
 eat with him, and he with me.

REV 3:21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I
 overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what
 the Spirit says to the churches."

and there will be activities...

There will be activities in heaven to engage man's highest faculties. For one thing, there will be governmental ministries. The "spirits of just
 men made perfect" (Hebrews 12:23) will be in the "city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to the company of many thousands of
 angels" (Hebrews 12:22), and men are to assist in governing the whole. Thus in the parable of the nobleman the good servant, who has been
 "faithful in a very little" on earth, is in heaven to be given "authority over ten cities" (Luke 19:17). In Matthew the servant who had been given
 five talents and who had "gained beside them five talents more" is told: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant:... I will make thee ruler over
 many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:20-21). Perhaps new songs are to be written and sung (Revelation 5:9). The

“redeemed from the earth,” too, are to learn a “new song” (Revelation 14:3). And the kings of the earth are to “bring their glory and honour into it” (Revelation 21:24). So while there is to be on the part of the redeemed a continuous worship in heaven, it seems to be in the sense that all activities engaged in will be for the sole glory of God and will therefore partake of the nature of worship.

why is he doing this?

1JN 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

end with this..

2CO 5:6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ We live by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

OB 19:25 I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

JOB 19:26 And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;

JOB 19:27 I myself will see him
with my own eyes--I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

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- 1CO 13:8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹² Now

we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see **face to face**. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

.....

And this current heaven will also be recreated...

REV 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea...**which we will talk about next week**

1 service start..

end

@@@@For us to finish the Race well on this earth a some boundaries are needed...